

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 are currently pending. The following remarks are considered by Applicants to overcome the objections and rejections raised by the Examiner. Therefore, Applicants request the reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-3.

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner for the telephonic interview conducted on December 15, 2006. In the Interview, the Examiner requested information regarding the functional support for the feature of “the lens holding portion being formed as a flat surface and includes a wide portion that extends at an equal width from the coil holding portion, and a side portion which inclines inwardly and widely from the border with the wide portion and a front portion which is shaped to border with the side portion along the outer circumstance of the objective lens”.

In view of the Examiner’s request, Applicants request that the following comments be favorably considered.

Claim 1 recites a lens holding portion that is formed thinner than the coil holding portion to avoid interference with a deflecting element positioned beneath the lens holding portion. The optical head device also has a flat surface with an arc shape from the side portion to the front along the outer circumference of the objective lens and has a first vibration-absorbing member attached to the front end portion. The first two features provide the following advantage. If the lens holding portion is made thin but with a wide area to increase rigidity, a large vibration is caused in the flat surface of the lens holding portion. Therefore, the lens holding portion is formed with a flat surface having an arc shape from the side portion to the front portion along the outer circumference of the objective lens to prevent any vibrations in the flat surface of the lens holding portion. (See Specification [0013]).

With regard to the feature of the first vibration-absorbing member attached to the front end portion, it is submitted that such a configuration eliminates cantilever vibrations. In other words, providing the vibration-absorbing member by itself would not eliminate the cantilever vibrations. However, by providing the first vibration-absorbing member on the front end of the lens holding portion, the cantilever vibrations are eliminated. Thus, the lens holding portion is made in a ring-link shape to gather the vibrations in the focusing direction at the front end of the lens holding portion so that the vibrations are eliminated by the first-absorbing member. Therefore, even when the lens holding portion is made thin, sympathetic vibrations in the objective lens can be eliminated.

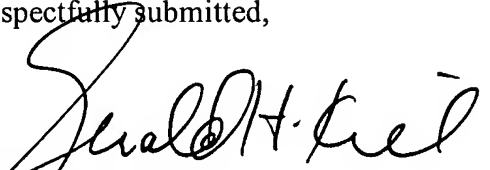
Applicants submit that Horita fails to teach or suggest the features recited in claim 1. As a result, Horita fails to provide the advantages and/or benefits provided by the claimed invention. Specifically, Horita has the same problems described in the “Description of the Related Art” of the present specification. For instance, the lens holder 14 in the embodiment illustrated in Fig. 2 is the same as in Horita, which is used “in order to prevent the influence of sympathetic vibrations even when the portion 31 is made thin, the lens holding portion 31 is provided with a wide portion 351 having a width equal to the width of the coil holding portion 31, and a flat surface is so shaped from the wide portion 351 to the front portion 352 that it largely surrounds the objective lens 2 to form a wide area around the objective lens 2. In this manner, the rigidity of the lens holding portion 35 is increased.” (see [0007] of the specification). However, when the lens holding portion 35 is made thin and the area of the lens holding portion 35 is made wide, large vibrations resembling vibrations caused on a trampoline become noticeable in the flat surface in the lens holding portion 35. (See [0008] of the specification). Horita does not provide any features that eliminate these vibrations.

It is respectfully submitted that Horita fails to teach or suggest all the features recited in claim 1. Specifically, Horita fails to teach or suggest a lens holding portion being formed as a flat surface and includes a wide portion that extends at an equal width from the coil holding portion, and a side portion which inclines inwardly and widely from the border with the wide portion, and a front portion which is shaped with the side portion along the outer circumstance of the objective lens. Through the experimentation of the claimed invention, it has been determined that the features of the claimed invention eliminate the cantilever vibrations and any other large vibrations. Therefore, Applicants request the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-3.

In view of these remarks presented, it is respectfully requested that all of the claims be reconsidered and allowed. If the Examiner believes that additional issues need to be resolved before this application can be passed to issue, the undersigned invites the Examiner to contact him at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

By



Gerald H. Kiel
Reg. No. 25,116
REED SMITH LLP
599 Lexington Avenue
29th Floor
New York, NY 10022-7650
(212) 521-5400

Attorney for Applicants